

23 March 1979

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Staff Meeting Minutes of 23 March 1979

The Director chaired the meeting. [ ]

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[ ] (for Lehman) briefed on the status of the major Soviet military exercise, noting that the airborne landing of a parachute regiment in Central Mongolia has been postponed 24 hours until 1800 tonight. He mentioned that the Soviet First Deputy Minister of Defense was in the area of the exercises. Some Soviet troops are approaching the Chinese border area. Parmenter confirmed the Director's understanding that the Soviet troops are moving away from Afghanistan. In response to the Director's question, [ ] said the exercise was to be completed by 25 March but this may have changed because of the revised time for the parachute drop. Bowie mentioned that NIO [ ] planned to do an in-depth analysis of the entire exercise. [ ]

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Stein noted a State Department message expressing concern about the deteriorating internal security situation in Afghanistan. The Embassy wants to evacuate 10 AID people from the country and draw down the Peace Corps contingent. [ ]

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Taylor advised that work is under way on the 1981 program and the top-level involvement of office chiefs and Deputies is encouraging. He noted his understanding of the difficulties in meeting deadlines but said they have to be met. [ ]

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Taylor said that the Executive Committee charter meeting yesterday went well. A Director's Note will be issued explaining the new group. The Deputies have been asked to suggest agenda issues of interest, and the NAPA report will probably be the first item addressed. [ ]

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In response to Bowie's question about pursuing DCI meetings with university presidents, the Director agreed not to hold any additional meetings for a few months and to reassess the question at that time. Bowie noted that the sessions were worthwhile but were a considerable drain on resources. Mr. Carlucci suggested that as a possible alternative, contact could be made with local university associations that might be interested in having Agency representatives speak at their programs. [REDACTED]

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Taylor noted a request from Dr. Brzezinski that the Agency contribute \$25,000 to the Presidential Commission on Foreign Language and International Studies to assess and encourage international studies programs. Taylor suggested that while the amount of money is small, CIA involvement could be misperceived and therefore should probably be avoided. The Director expressed his concern that the \$25,000 request could be just an opening wedge that would be escalated in the future. [REDACTED]

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Next 1 Page(s) In Document Denied